

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Form Bi-689

FIELD DIARY

Mr. _____

Vernon Bailey

Biologist, Biological Survey

(Official title.)

Period, _____

July 3, 1926 to

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July 3, 1924
Left Washington 3:10 PM for
Yellowstone Park.
Hot and dry

~~July 4, Arrived Chicago 9 AM.~~
Left Chicago 10:35 AM.
Cool and fresh and good crops.
along the way.
Wausau in PM.
Dark soon after leaving Wausau.

July 5, Daylight at Detroit, Mich.
Breakfast at Fargo at 7 AM.
Very hot and crops poor across
Dakota. Many lakes dry, few birds,
no marked signs of life, few
ground squirrels.
Badland country very dry
Dark at Miles City

July 6. Arrived at Livingston 3 AM
and left at 9 AM. Reached
Gardiner at 11 and Mammoth at 12.
Set beaver traps in Ice Lake, better
called Golden Eye Lake, after supper.

July 7. Caught a 30 lb. beaver and brought
up to hotel for everybody to see and
photograph. Then took it back to
its home pond, where they have a
house and family. We saw two large and one
small beaver swimming in the pond just after
sundown, also an old Canada goose &
a family of old & young golden eyes & etc.
Sawyer says there are muskrats in this
pond, some of them living in the beaver houses.
The beaver taken had lost most of its fur
and much of the long hair and was about as
thin and ragged as they ever get.
Could see rare skin on its back and it
was faded to a pale ochreous brown.
When released on the bank of the lake

back some 150 feet from the shore it sat and sniffed all round for a minute, then started straight for the water and through the water straight for its house half way up the pond. He went slowly and not as if frightened.

The Citellus elegans were numerous along the railroad up to Emigrant Station and beyond for a few miles and then Citellus armatus began a little below Gardiner and were equally abundant, fairly swarming in places and very tame. At Mammoth Hot Springs they are right among the houses and on the streets and sidewalks. I counted 23 in one dooryard at one time, most doors to the rear stairs above the big hotel. The white clover was very fresh and green and well watered in this yard and they came in to get this supper. The yard was probably 100 feet square.

The young were about half grown and getting fat, the prettier ones yellow still. The old ones looked pretty fat. They were feeding largely on grass seeds as well as clover and other green vegetation. This sheep, birdlike chick was found all along the roads and wherever they were. Many are killed by passing automobiles.

Thosorex palustris navigator was seen in the half empty concrete reservoir just up the Sepulchre Mtn. trail where it had fallen in and could not get out. It was darting and swimming about, diving and popping up dry and velvety again out of the water, sometimes bringing up food from below and eating it on a floating shingle or hunting flies or insects over the surface of floating boards & shingles, then returning to a half eaten Athetis that lay on a piece of board. Its motions were so quick and insect like that it hardly seemed

like a man. It had no nest or shelter so I tied up some big grass balls and dropped down on the floating boards to give it a comfortable home until I return and take it with me for study.

Marmota f. mesophora? are common along the roads but I never saw a Mammoth and Dr. Connor says they have been killed off because they did so much damage, digging in yards and eating gardens and flowers.

Lepus campestris are common over the formation where they come out & feed in the afternoon and are so tame I walked up to 10 feet of one but did not have a camera.

Coronellius M. pallidus were found hanging to the walls of the Devil's Kitchen in small numbers, not over a dozen seen, one bunch of 4 or 5 and the rest singly on the walls or flying.

Urotrichus carissima were not found tho I looked carefully.

Peromyscus m. gambelii are said to be troublesome about the buildings and I saw two back of the museum that had been thrown out in the corral.

July 7
Left Mammoth Hot Springs at
8:15 AM and reached Old
Faithful at noon by bus.
Cold & windy and not much wild life
to be seen except one fine old
bull elk in Gibbon Meadows near
the road with big velvet horns.
Went to the Camp and located
in cabin 308, north of the camp
office and facing Old Faithful.
Found a family of half grown
woodpeckers sitting on my ~~deck~~
and when I scattered rolled
oats and crackers I soon had
lots of woodpeckers, a Cedarwing,
white crowned sparrows and a
tanager feeding on a close to
my boardwalk.
Got out & set traps in afternoon
and saw 2 or 3 black bears
at garbage pile in evening.

Manual Catalogue

July

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1. <i>Microtus nanus</i> | ♀ | 160, 41, 21, | Old Faithful, July 8, | |
| 2. " " | ♂ | 162, 40, 21, | " " | |
| 3. " " | ♂ | 158, 40, 20, | " " | |
| 4. <i>Sorex</i> | ♀ | 110, 46, 13, | " " | |
| 5. <i>Eutamias lateralis</i> | ♂ | 215, 91, 30 | " 9 " | |
| 6. <i>Microtus nanus</i> | ♂ | 168, 37, 20, | " 70-8 | |
| 7. " " | ♂ | 172, 40, 20, | " 10 | |
| 8. " " | ♀ | 165, 35, 20 | " " | |
| 9. <i>Thomomys pusillus</i> | ♀ | 209, 64, 27 | " 11 | |
| 10. <i>Peromyscus</i> | ♂ | 146, 46, 21, | " " | |
| 11. <i>Sorex</i> | ♂ | 100, 41, 14, | " " | |
| 12. " | ♂ | 100, 41, 14, | " " | |
| 13. <i>M. drummondi</i> | ♀ | 175, 40, 20, My Park. 12 | | |
| 14. <i>C. armatus</i> | ♀ | 260, 45, 40, | " " | |
| 15. <i>Sorex</i> | ♀ | 110, 42, 12, Shoshone Lake, 17. | | |
| 16. " | ♀ | 115, 42, 14, | " " | |
| 17. <i>Thomomys</i> | ♂ | 182, 53, 24, | " " | |
| 18. <i>Zapus</i> | ♀ | 250, 150, 31, | " " | |
| 19. <i>Fiber</i> , | ♂ | 420, 180, 70, My Park Hart Lake | | |
| 20. <i>Peromyscus</i> | ♂ | 150, 45, 20 " | " " | |
| 21. <i>Microtus maysi</i> | ♀ | 272, 60, 26, July 22, | " " | |
| 22. <i>Eutamias</i> | ♀ | 137, 35, 17, | 24, Hartell Cr. | |

July 8. Caught 5 *Microtus nanus* or *carpalis*, and one little shrew & a chipmunk, *luteiventris*. Reset the traps and made up a few skins.

About 4 PM a snowshoe rabbit came out and sat in front of my cabin and ate grass tops.

July 9 Set traps along creek for water shrews but caught none. Went over to west side of valley and found *Ochetomys* in the big slide rock talus.

July 11 Caught 2 more little *Sorex obscurus*; a *Thomomys* and *Peromyscus* but no water shrews. Took up traps and made up specimens for an early start in morning.

Entomia virginis - Old Faithful, W.W.P.

On July 8 found a garter snake, about 16 inches long that showed a bulge middly ad on cutting it open found 3 well grown nestlings of the white crowned sparrow in its stomach. They were well pin feathered and easily recognized.

July 12, Left Old Faithful at 7:30 AM for the Lower Geysers Basin to meet the Sierra Club party, coming in from West Yellowstone. We camped just below the ridge on the south side of the creek in a clean grove of Lodgepole pine.

While making camp some one saw a weasel run up a tree so I climbed up ad after chasing it through the tops of many trees I succeeded in snaring it ad bringing it down for the whole party to see ad photograph ad take moving pictures of. Then made a cage from a tin can, caught 5 meadow mice for its supper ad left it for others to see. Later carried it on to the Old Faithful camp.

Yellowstone Nat. Park, 1926

23. Entomos pictures, 185, 64, 28; 15, Aug. 1, ~~1926~~, Canyon Camp.

July 13. Broke camp and picked up the Firehole Valley to Old Faithful about 10 miles and made camp on both sides of the river just above the last buildings of the Yellowstone Camp. Have a dozen hot springs in camp so we can get water of any temperature or for any purpose. A warm day but rained in evening, but a damp night but not very cold.

July 14, Spent one day at Old Faithful Camp, hiked and repacked our baggage for tomorrow's pack train, sent off my specimens to the Park Museum, and in evening had a big entertainment in the new Out door Theater of the Y.P.C. Rained a trifle in P.M. but cleared up in night.

Let my tame weasel go because no one would bother to take it down to Mammoth.

July 15,

~~July 15~~ Hiked over to west end of Shoshone Lake on trail about 12 or 15 miles, and camped among the hot springs and geysers. Passed Mimantwawa pond about midway of the trail before crossing the continental divide close to the trail on the east side. It is a small pond of

July 15, Had breakfast at 5:30 packed up and started for Shoshone Lake at 6:30 over the Howard Eaton Trail past Star geyser and across the continental divide some 500 or 600 feet above the valleys. Good trail and easy going.

About half way and before reaching the summit we passed a shallow pond on the east side of the trail where the most wonderful pond lilies grow, 3 or 4 inches across, deep yellow with blood orange back of petals (sips) and beautiful big heart shaped leaves. We photographed and collected them and named the pond Micantwana from Thomas Bailey Aldriches beautiful poem recited by Miss Cleary as we sat by the pond, writing the name on the tree by the trail.

Camped at west end of Sloahone Lake among the hot springs and geysers. Lots of trout were caught along Sloahone Creek, many of the fishers getting their limit of 20 fine large brook trout before we reached camp. We all had a feast of fish.

July 16. Spent all day at camp and explored the lake shores and marshes and forest. Found one of the Trumpeting swans on the lake and picked up lots of moulted quill feathers along the beach. Found an eagles nest with one young on a tall tree near the lake. Saw Canada geese and lots of ducks and sandpipers.

Found a big green pool of typical alpine water near camp

July 17. Got an early start for Lewis Lake and hiked over good trail all the way through Lodgepole pines and open parks & meadows, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ or $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles to east side of middle of Lewis Lake and camped on shore by auto road.

A good foot bridge had been built across outlet of Slabhouse Lake but the perch borders got their fillies wet in crossing.

July 18 - Staid at camp and explored Lake stems and down to Lewis Falls. Two parties went to the Tetons on trucks,

July 19, Hiked over to Heart lake, 8 miles, good trail and easy going, camped beyond inlet at edge of Geyser basin on shore of lake,

July 20, Explored the east side
of Heart Lake where big marshes border
the eastern bay and elk tracks are common.
Found a few beaver signs but no houses or
dams of recent origin.

Found a fine lot of big Boletus with
the red brown tops and a few of the sulphur
yellow Boletus which was first delicious food.
Also a few of the bright yellow little wood
mushrooms which are best of all.

July 21, Went up Sheridan Peak almost to the top where big subbanks lie on the east slope down 500 feet below the peak. Found the usual set of Hudsonian and Arctic alpine plants, lots of Clark's crows, a pipit, Ochetorix etc. Got about 7 quarts of the beautiful little golden mushrooms and had them fried for supper. Were delicious.

July 22, Hiked down to Snake River and camped on Hamell Creek at the ranger station.

Saw lots of beaver work along Snake river and on the little sloughs along the side where they had several dams and a little house. They are eating low willows and cutting pines for building material.

July 23

Our Big Year Ridge to Fox Creek, about 12 miles, saw great numbers of elk tracks and several small herds of up to 12 elk and one herd of 200 or 300. Others who started earlier saw more elk and those who climbed the high peak at the north end of the ridge found many scattered and one bunch of about 60 elk.

Flowers were collected after timberline on the ridge and turned in to the museum at Mammoth Hot Springs but I did not have time to make a list.

Crossed Snake River and camped on Fox Creek just east of river which here is only a small creek.

July 24. Started early up Fox
Crk to try and get a topograph
of game up the hill and about
it. At 11 a.m. we had to
give up and drop hunting.
Then Dr. Ritter and I
tramped up the hill for a mile
or so. I shot until far away
from the crowd we were
traveling a very wide. 300 or 400
with nothing but lying out in
an open park.

Crossed over two lower
Plattean near Mariposa Falls
and down Lyre Crk to the
Upper Yellowstone some 2 miles
below Bridge Lake and camped
on east side of river.

Some beaver signs occurring
here and lots of mule trout
caught by the fishermen.

July 23

Over Two Ocean Pass to camp on upper Yellowstone, two miles below Bridger Lake.

July 24, Remained in camp ~~too long~~
and explored surrounding country,
some walking trips to tops of ridges.

July 25 Followed down east
side of Yellowstone river valley
to Mountain Creek and camped
where the trail crosses it.
Explored up the creek and side
gulches.

~~July 26~~

July 30 - To Park Point on east
shore of Yellowstone Lake

July 30

To Indian Pond at N.E. corner of Yellowstone Lake and camped on high open shore. Found two old and a half grown young Trumpeter Swans in Spring Pond, a mile before reaching camp.

July 31. To Yellowstone Canyon and camped on east side of river, half a mile above Upper Yellowstone Falls. Part came on buses & part on foot.

Aug. 3. All moved on to Mammoth and camped near the buffalo corral on Bunsen Road.

Aug. 4. Peeks Camp and the party took buses to West Yellowstone while I came out to Gardiner and Livingston.

Aug. 4-7. At Livingston.
Trapping for bison hunters

Aug. 8 - To Bismarck, N.D.
Where I met Warden Brown
and all Eastgates and showed
them how to catch bears
alive and handle them.

Aug. 12 - To St. Paul to
see Game Warden Gould
but found he was away.
Returned to Elk River over
Sat. & Sunday and then
on to Bemidji.

Sept. 17. Set traps for marten in
the lake about 10 miles south
of Bemidji but a storm came
up before dark and the waves
spun my traps so we caught nothing.

Aug. 18. Went on to Duluth where I met several woodsmen and next day drove up to Two Harbors and set the beaver trap. Got one fine beaver next morning and returned to Duluth and started in early for Marquette, Mich.

Aug. 21-23. Left Marquette Aug. 23 for Hagon Mountain Club west of Big Bay on the shore of Lake Superior where I spent 2 weeks trapping beavers alive and watching their tails, building beaver fences and houses and making a general study of beavers' control methods.

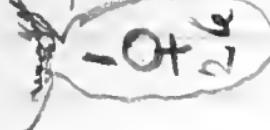
Aug. 25
From Marquette out to Big Bay
and to Huron Mountain Club to
continues study of beavers

Staid with Bayard H. Christy
and explored the lakes and streams on
the club property

Aug. 30. Took a live beaver to Marquette
to show at the luncheon of the Rotary Club
while talking about beaver farming.
See report in Daily Mining Journal of
Aug. 31, 1926, p. 2.

Marked beaver tails, built beaver houses
and beaver pens. Caught 8 live
beavers & put in pens lake numbered
1 to 8. in white paint on tails.

Beavers Marked -

No. 1. ♀, 39 lbs. Left front leg gone
Caught Aug. 26 in Second Pine Lake
near the farm, taken to Marquette
to Rotary Club luncheon Aug. 30,
Tail marked with white paint made of
Dupont household Cement and oxide of zinc.
 Released in Second Pine Lake
where caught Sept. 1.

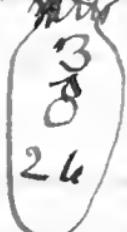
No. 2. Beaver ♂ ad. about 40 lbs.

Caught Sept. 1. near farm in Second Pine
Lake, tail marked and released when
taken, as soon as paint was dry
on tail.



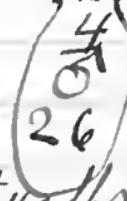
No. 3. Beaver, ♂ ad, Weight 42 lbs.

Caught Sept. 4 in Pine River below
Lake, tail painted white and released
the same day in First Pine
Lake



No. 4. Beaver, ♂, 33 lbs.

Caught Sept. 3 in Pine River below
Lake, tail painted and released in
Pine Lake Sept. 4.



No. 5. Beaver, ♀, mother, about 40 lbs.

Caught Sept. 2 in Pine River
Two young caught and placed with
her in house built for them in Pine
Lake, Sept. 5.



Beavers marked -

No. 6. Young beaver, about 9 lbs.
Caught Sept. 1 in Pine River
and mother caught in same place next
day. Kept with mother and placed
with her in house in Pine Lake Sept.
5. Sex not determined. 

No. 7. Young beaver, about 8 lbs.
Caught Sept. 5, tail walked and
put with mother & other young in
house in Pine lake Sept. 5. Sex
not determined. 

No. 8. Yearling beaver, about 25 lbs
Sex not determined. Caught in
Pine River Sept. 5, marked and
put in N.W. corner of lake near old
beaver house. same day. 

Sept. 5. Went over to Pine
Lake and helped Mr. Carroll
Paul build a beaver house on
the rocky north shore of the lake
when there is plenty of aspen.
Found most of the shore too rocky
or too sandy for beaver houses
and will have to build raft
or pile houses for them.

Sept. 7

Found a large beaver in
one of my traps in Pine river
and took one of the traps,
leaving the beaver and a trap
with Mr. Harris

Left the Hailey Mountain Club
at 11 AM and arrived at Marguerite
in time for the weekly luncheon
of the Rotary Club at which
Col. Greely talked on forestry.

In PM went off with the
editor of the Mining Journal and his
father-in-law to inspect a very
promising beaver farm about 8 miles
northeast of Marguerite.

Several other people came to the
hotel to talk over beaver farms

Sept. 8.

Examined beaver traps for Mr. Arthur Billanger, about 7 miles S E of Marquette and arranged with Lakerstone Engine Works to make beaver traps at \$20 each as needed, and left my trap with them for a model.

Sept. 9. Left Marquette 2 P.M. and arrived Mackinaw at 10 P.M. staid all night.

Sept. 10. Left Mackinaw at 1 P.M. and reached Bayne City about 4 P.M. Went to Wolverine Hotel.

Sept 11 & 12. Visited beaver colonies on Wagner Creek at a portion two.



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